

RECOGNIZING MILWAUKEE
COUNTY SHERIFF DENITA R. BALL

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Milwaukee County Sheriff Denita R. Ball. Sheriff Denita R. Ball will be sworn in as Milwaukee County Sheriff on January 6, 2023. Sheriff Ball was elected as the 66th Sheriff of Milwaukee County on Nov. 8, 2022, making her the first female sheriff in the history of the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, and the first African American female sheriff in Wisconsin.

A native of Arkansas, Sheriff Ball holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, a master's degree in criminal justice administration from the UW-Milwaukee, and has a doctorate of philosophy in educational leadership from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee. Her doctoral dissertation is titled "Lethal Force: A Police Officer's Deadly Experience."

Sheriff Ball is also a graduate of several prestigious leadership programs, including the Department of Homeland Security's Leadership Academy (2019), Southern Police Institute Chief Executive Leadership Course (2007), the FBI National Academy (2004), the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Executive Development Course, which was sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Department of Justice (1995), and Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command (1994).

Before being elected, Sheriff Ball had served since 2019 as chief deputy sheriff/undersheriff of the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the agency. Prior to her service with the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Ball was a high-ranking member of the Milwaukee Police Department and retired at the rank of deputy inspector after 25 years of distinguished service.

While a member of the police department, Sheriff Ball commanded Police District Four, the Professional Performance Division (Internal Affairs), and the Sensitive Crimes Division. Additionally, Sheriff Ball organized, implemented and was the first commander of the Neighborhood Task Force, a group of 200 officers from the following units: Street Crimes (Gang and Narcotic Officers), Tactical Enforcement (SWAT), Motorcycle, Marine Operations (Boats) Canine, and Mounted Patrol and supervised their strategic deployment to high crime areas, which resulted in double-digit decreases in crime.

In her role as Milwaukee County Sheriff she will lead nearly 600 members, including more than 250 deputy sheriffs, 160 correctional officers, and hundreds of civilian support and administrative staff who are tasked with the safety and security of the 150-plus miles of the Milwaukee County freeway system, more than 150 county parks, the Milwaukee County Courthouse Complex, extended circuit court system, public safety building, Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport, and numerous other county facilities and properties.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to recognize Milwaukee County Sheriff Denita R. Ball and her lifelong service of

protecting American citizens. I look forward to working with her in her efforts to protect the citizens of Milwaukee County.

THANKING THE GADDY FAMILY

HON. A. DREW FERGUSON IV

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike and Gwen Gaddy. The Gaddy family are local celebrities in Fayetteville due to their giant Christmas light display they've done annually since 1988. Not only does this display on Sandy Creek Road bring joy to the community—being a free and fun drive through for all to enjoy—but it is also for a great cause.

Every year, they raise money for the March of Dimes along with providing a drop-off area for Toys for Tots donations. The March of Dimes donations began in 2012 in honor of their grandson Brady, who passed away as an infant. Since 2012, they have raised more than \$160,000 for the charity. The toys donated at their Toys for Tots location equate to more than 2,500 toys, and as much as 23 percent of the toys donated in Fayette County some years.

The Gaddy family has never taken any money from the public to keep the display running or to offset their expensive power bill—everything donated goes to charity. Madam Speaker, their selfless actions have made them a staple in our local community, and we're extremely grateful for everything they do to bring joy to folks around the holiday season.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2022 ARTS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize ArtsFairfax and the recipients of the 2022 Arts Awards. These awards recognize the extraordinary contributions of artists, arts organizations, individuals, and businesses in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church that support the arts in our community.

Founded in 1964, the formally named Arts Council of Fairfax County, Inc. is a non-profit organization designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency. Today, ArtsFairfax operates programs and initiatives that include grant opportunities, arts advocacy, education, and professional development opportunities for artists and arts organizations.

As the arts community has continued to rebuild after many artists and organizations had to cancel programs and events during the height of the pandemic, ArtsFairfax awarded over \$538,838 in County, public, and private funds through competitive grants and awards to arts organizations and individual artists in FY2021. ArtsFairfax's resiliency and adaptability allowed the organization to continue meeting the needs of the arts community during these unprecedented times.

The Arts Awards honors supporters of the arts in 4 categories: the Jinx Hazel Arts Award, the Arts Achievement Award, the Arts Innovation Award, and the Arts Philanthropy Award. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2022 Arts Awards Recipients:

The 2022 Jinx Hazel Arts Award, ArtsFairfax's premier award recognizing an individual or organization whose vision and commitment has helped shape the cultural life of Fairfax County, will be presented to Capital One Hall.

The 2022 Arts Achievement Award will be presented to Mark Brutsché for his outstanding career achievement and lasting contributions to the community.

The 2022 Arts Innovation Award will be presented to Fall for the Book for their implementation of inventive approaches to their art form that have uniquely engaged audiences in the arts.

The 2022 Arts Philanthropy Award will be presented to Gary and Tina Mather for their commitment to making the arts the cornerstone of their philanthropic portfolio.

I also want to recognize the 2022–2024 Fairfax Poet Laureate, Danielle Badra, as she builds awareness and appreciation of poetry throughout Fairfax County.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2022 Arts Awards and recognizing the visionaries, leaders, and supporters who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. PHILIP GRAHAM

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. GREEN. Madam Speaker, Tennessee's 7th District is full of men and women dedicated to their city, their state, their country, and their God. Everyday citizens who bring light, hope, and love to the world right in front of them. I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one such Tennessee resident.

Philip Graham was born in Clarksville, Tennessee, on July 4, 1950. The Tennessee 7th was home for all his 71 years. His world was his family. With his wife, Brenda, and daughter Ashley Elizabeth, he spent countless years making his community a brighter, more hopeful place. From his many years at APSU to his long career at Marriott International, nothing was ordinary or common when he was gathered in with the people he cherished.

He was a proud member of the Montgomery County Republican Party and an Associate Member of the Montgomery County Republican Women. Philip cherished and championed many friends who ran for various offices. He was honored to serve as a poll watcher in local elections and encouraged all to be active participants in the town he loved.

In perhaps his greatest service to the world around him, Philip deeply championed Cumberland Heights and the recovery community as he worked daily to help others follow the better way. He, along with his family, looked forward to May 17—what he affectionately called his other birthday. He joyfully celebrated 43 years of sobriety.

Philip's life was one of more than service to others. He believed he was called to love all those who the Almighty had placed in his path. He came to know the God of his understanding and sought Him in various houses of worship, untold bookstores, scientific studies, and the gathering of friends. His strong faith was a gift to his family each day.

He is survived by his wife, Brenda, his daughter, his son-in-law, and the light of his last years, his granddaughter Brooklynn Isabella Graham. I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the life and legacy of Philip Graham. May we, together, pray for his family as we—in his memory—recommit ourselves to lives in service to each other.

RECOGNIZING BLUES GYM AND MR. DINO NEWVILLE OF GRAND RAPIDS

HON. PETER MEIJER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. MEIJER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize philanthropist, small business owner, and four-time world kickboxing champion, Mr. Dino Newville.

As operator of Blues Gym, a mixed-martial-arts facility in Grand Rapids, it is not just Dino's athletic accomplishments that make him worthy of recognition. For nearly a decade, Blues Gym has been both a family and a sanctuary to hundreds of at-risk young adults. While offering important lessons in self-defense, Blues Gym also provides tutoring, counseling, and it regularly organizes food drives for those in need. The tireless work of Dino and his volunteers to uplift the youth in our community is a generous act of service for which we should all be incredibly proud.

Dino, who rallies behind the motto "Fill the Gyms, Not the Prisons," runs the gym as an entirely non-profit, volunteer-based organization. Relying almost exclusively on donations and public support, Dino has even re-entered the ring himself to raise funds in support of those who find sanctuary at Blues Gym.

A highly skilled athlete and major proponent of our community, Dino has been recognized by the City of Grand Rapids on numerous occasions, the first time in 1981, for his accomplishments and philanthropy. As a vocal advocate for issues affecting young adults in Grand Rapids, Dino has proven that he will stop at nothing to ensure that they have the resources and opportunities needed to stay safe and thrive.

Madam Speaker, it is people like Mr. Dino Newville and the volunteers at Blues Gym who truly embody the spirit of giving and service. Dino is a role model for all of us, and I am proud not only to represent him, but to call him my friend.

HONORING MICHELLE DONCHES FOR 31 YEARS OF CONGRES- SIONAL SERVICE

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a crucial member of my staff,

Mrs. Michelle M. Donches. Michelle has dedicated herself for 31 years as a congressional staffer. I'm thankful that she has been with me for almost 12 years, since my first day in Congress on January 3, 2011.

Michelle's career with the U.S. House of Representatives began in 1991 when the Office of the Clerk hired her to work as a Benefits Clerk in the Finance Office. Michelle was promoted to the Payroll Department, where she worked until 1999. Michelle transitioned from Payroll to her current position as a shared staffer, handling the office finances for multiple Members of Congress. Throughout her career, she has worked for 28 different Member offices and currently works for 9 Members.

Michelle grew up in Bethlehem, PA. After she graduated from college, she married her best friend, Steve, and started working on the Hill just weeks later as Steve began law school. Now, Steve is a practicing attorney in Loudoun County, VA. Michelle and Steve have two exceptional children. Her daughter, Taylor, graduated from the University of Virginia in May as a Civil/Environmental engineer. Taylor currently works for Kimley-Horn in Reston, VA. Her son, Stevie, is a freshman at the University of South Carolina.

Michelle's work ethic and expertise have been a true asset to my staff. I'm thankful for her tenure as a part of Team PALAZZO, and I know all the Member offices who have worked, currently work, and those that will work with her are so lucky. Madam Speaker, I express my gratitude to Michelle for 31 exceptional years.

RECOGNIZING THE 18TH ANNUAL FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY CON- FERENCE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Fairfax County History Commission on the occasion of the 18th Annual Fairfax County History Conference.

Since 1969, the Fairfax County History Commission has worked to identify, document, record and preserve the history of our region. There are few areas in the country that are as rich in history as our area is. The History Conference provides an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year while recognizing our neighbors who have made significant contributions to preserving and promoting our local history. Through the dedicated efforts of the History Commission and its many volunteers, we are assured that our history will not be lost and will be available for future generations.

This year, a number of dedicated individuals are being honored for their commitment to the preservation and education of history. I am proud to include in the RECORD their names:

Mike Salmon and Ean Eschenburg for their work to promote and preserve the history of Fairfax County through video historic documentary production. One of their first productions, entitled "The Gravel Pits: Before There Was a Kingstowne," takes the viewer from today's busy, attractive residential and commercial area of Kingstowne to the days when it

was a semi-abandoned concrete plant known as the Leehigh Cement Company.

Debbie Robison for her 11 years of service on the Fairfax County History Commission, including 2 years as the Commission's Chairperson. Her in-depth knowledge of Fairfax County and surrounding jurisdictions is beyond compare. She has been first and foremost a life-long promoter of the history and preservation of Fairfax County's history.

George Mason University Capstone Computer Science Program 2021 graduates, Akbur Asuri, Steve Cheuko, Brian Do, Fernando Galarza, Roman Patrick, and Samuel Pitch, for creating the Fairfax County African American History Inventory Database. The project included the labor, research and design to create a user friendly and future oriented data base, referenced as the African American Historic Inventory.

I commend the Fairfax County History Commission for helping to ensure that the abundance of history that is available to our community will be preserved far into the future.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating all the honorees and thanking the Fairfax County History Commission for the important work they do for the Northern Virginia community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, due to a transportation issue, I was unable to cast my vote on S. 2333, the Equal Pay for Team USA Act of 2022.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 532.

RECOGNIZING MIKE NICHOLA

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mike Nichola, my former Legislative Director, and current Osceola County community leader. Mike has dedicated his professional life to helping better Osceola County and Central Florida.

Mike was my first Legislative Director and helped to establish my legislative office. He has a long list of impressive legislative accomplishments. Throughout his congressional career, from drafting hundreds of pieces of legislation to securing millions of dollars worth of appropriation requests, he always kept in mind that it's a privilege to work for the home office and would frequently go above and beyond for our constituents.

Since moving back to Central Florida, he continued to advocate for our community through Osceola County government. He was instrumental in helping the County navigate the uncertainty of the pandemic. He also helped the County get funding for roads, affordable housing, rental assistance, fire fighters, to restore their lakes and rivers, addressed storm water issues, and diversified